CLAIMS

1.   A method of providing a sub-page of a website to a requesting client comprising the steps of:

(a) sending to the client, with a copy of a first web page, a plurality of links each of which points to an address within the Internet of a server on which a copy of the sub-page is hosted;

(b) actuating one of the links;

(c) determining, on the basis of a predetermined criterion, whether actuation of said one of the links has been successful in obtaining the sub-page;

(d) if not, actuating another of the links; and

repeating steps (c) and (d) until the first to occur of: all of the links have been actuated; and actuation of a link has been successful in accordance with the predetermined criterion.

2.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the links are actuated in a predetermined order established prior to dispatch to the client.

3.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying an alias for each actuated link at the client.

4.   A method according to claim 3, wherein the alias is an address of a server adapted to translate the alias to an address of a server hosting a copy of the sub-page.

5.   A method according to claim 3 wherein the alias is displayed on a graphical user interface of a program running on the client which is adapted to enable user navigation of the internet.

6.   A method according to claim 3 wherein the alias displayed is the same for each of the links actuated.

8.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined criterion is whether, within a predetermined period of time, a predetermined step in a process of establishing connection with a secondary server has been reached.

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9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the predetermined step is completion of a connection with a secondary server.

10. A method of operating a web server to provide a sub-page of a website to a requesting client, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a client a request for a first web page;

sending to the client, with the first page, a plurality of links each of which points to an address within the Internet of a server hosting a copy of the sub-page, and code which is executable to:

(a) actuate one of the links;

(b) determine, on the basis of a predetermined criterion, whether actuation of said one of the links has been successful in obtaining the sub-page;

(c) if not, actuating another of the links; and

repeating steps (b) and (c) until the first to occur of: all of the links have been actuated; and actuation of a link has been successful in accordance with the predetermined criterion.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein the links are actuated in a predetermined order determined established prior to dispatch from the web server.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein code is additionally sent to the client with the first web page which is operable upon actuation of a link, to cause a browser programme to display an alias of the address of a secondary server to which an actuated link points.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein the alias is an address of a server adapted to translate the alias to an address of one of the secondary servers.

14. A method according to claim 14 wherein the alias displayed is the same for each of the links actuated.

15. A method according to claim 11 wherein the predetermined criterion is whether, within a predetermined period of time, a predetermined step in a process of establishing connection with a secondary server has been reached.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the predetermined step is completion of a connection with a secondary server.

17. A method according to claim 11 wherein where the same links are sent to different clients, the predetermined order in which the links are actuated is varied.

18. A method according to claim 11 wherein the plurality of links sent to a first client machine and the plurality of links sent to a second client machine a different at least in respect of one address of a server hosting the sub-page.

19. A method according to claim 18 wherein each link in the plurality of links sent to a first client points to an address of a server which is not replicated in any of the plurality of links sent to a second client.

20. A web server adapted to respond to a request from a client by sending to the client a copy of a first web page and to include with the first web page a plurality of links each of which points to an address within the Internet, each predetermined address being an address of a secondary server, the web server being adapted to send with the first web page, in response to said request code executable to:

    (a) actuate one of the links;

    (b) determine, on the basis of a predetermined criterion, whether actuation of said one of the links has been successful in obtaining the sub-page;

    (c) if not, actuating another of the links; and

    repeating steps (b) and (c) until the first to occur of: all of the links have been actuated; and actuation of a link has been successful in accordance with the predetermined criterion.

21. A method according to claim 20 wherein the links are actuated in a predetermined order established prior to dispatch from the client.

22. A web page including a plurailty of links each of which points to an address within the Internet of a server on which a copy of a sub-page is hosted, the page including code associated therewith which is actuable to:

(a) actuate one of the links;

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(b) determine, on the basis of a predetermined criterion, whether actuation of said one of the links has been successful in obtaining the sub-page;

(c) if not, actuating another of the links; and

repeating steps (b) and (c) until the first to occur of: all of the links have been actuated; and actuation of a link has been successful in accordance with the

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predetermined criterion.